

REMARKS

With the foregoing amendments, claims 1-13 are presented for favorable consideration.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to confirm the novel features of the claimed process. The amendments are supported by the specification, for example, Examples 1-4. Claims 1, 7, 9 and 10 have also been amended in line with the helpful formalistic comments of the examiner. Finally, new claims 12 and 13 have been added to cover the novel term of calcination as supported by the specification, for example, Examples 1-4.

Claims 9 and 10 stand objected because of certain informalities. In line with the helpful comments of the examiner, applicants have amended claims 9 and 10.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Again, in line with the helpful comments of the examiner, claims 1, 7 and 10 have been amended. Applicant submits that these claim amendments follow the examiner's comments and suggestions and obviate the rejections.

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Venkatathri. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following information and facts.

The applicant's process includes several features that are not disclosed or suggested by Venkatathri. For example, the claimed invention requires cooling the autoclave containing the reaction mixture to room temperature, separating the crystalline material, and then washing the material with distilled water and drying the crystalline material. The cited art does not disclose or suggest this unique process. This unique process overcomes the disadvantages of the cited prior art that has lower Bronsted acidity due to the reduced incorporation of Si in the desired

framework of the resulting chemical composition. In addition, the product resulting from the claimed invention is a more crystalline product. The cited prior art does not disclose, suggest or appreciate the claimed process and its unexpected results yielding a product with higher Bronsted acidity and a more crystalline structure. In this regard, the claimed invention produces more acetic material and an increase in the number of acid sites. In addition, it increases the silicon content, which also favors the formation of more Bronsted acid sites. Again, the features of the claimed process and the beneficial results stemming from it are not disclosed, suggested or appreciated by the cited art.

On page 4 of the Office Action, it appears that the examiner has correctly noted that the prior art does not disclose the claimed cooling step in combination with the other steps of the claimed invention. As noted in claims 1 and 10, the cooling step is not the same as the washing step of the cited prior art. Thus, the washing step disclosed in the cited prior art does not disclose or suggest the claimed cooling step in combination with all of the other steps in the applicant's claims.

Applicant's invention is also distinguished by the features set forth in new claims 12 and 13, which note that the calcination occurs for eight hours. In contrast, the cited art requires calcination for a much longer period of time (50% more) -- and even that prior art process does not result in the production of more Bronsted acid sites or increased crystallization like the claimed invention. This contrary teaching of the prior art further confirms the nonobviousness of the claimed invention, i.e., the prior art teaches away from the claimed invention.

For the foregoing reasons either individually or collectively, applicant submits that the cited art does not disclose, suggest or appreciate the features of the claimed invention and the

VENKATATHRI et al
Appl. No. 10/693,650
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results that are obtained by the claimed invention. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the examiner has any questions concerning this case, the undersigned may be contacted at 703-816-4009.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Duane M. Byers
Reg. No. 33,363

DMB:lfo
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100